

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) ~~The A method according to claim 11 of treating obesity comprising co-administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dosage of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and an effective dosage of metformin, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is a ~~fibrate compound~~ selected from the group consisting of fenofibrate, a fibrate compound selected from the group consisting of gemfibrozil, fenofibric acid, fenofibrate bezafibrate, elofibrate and ciprofibrate, a fibric acid derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of said fibric acid derivative a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of gemfibrozil, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of fenofibric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of bezafibrate, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of ciprofibrate, wherein said effective dosage of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and said effective dosage of metformin are effective for the treatment of obesity.~~

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ~~fibrate~~ PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is fenofibrate, fenofibric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or ester~~ of fenofibric acid.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~11~~12, wherein the effective dosage of the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~11~~12, wherein the effective dosage of metformin is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~11~~12, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin are administered simultaneously.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~11~~12, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin are administered sequentially.